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AUG 22 2007

Application No: 10/558,440
Amendment A
Reply to Office Action Dated 05/22/2007

Attorney Docket No: 3926.231

REMARKS

Claims 27-40 and 42-49 are pending in the application. Claims 27-40 and 42-49 have been amended. Claims 1-26 have been previously cancelled. Claim 41 has now been cancelled. Claims 43-49 have been withdrawn, but rejoinder thereof has been requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 36-39, 40, and 42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Appropriate correction has been made.

Regarding claim 42, "outside the component separation" means that the bracket is not located in the separation region of the sill panel (27) and an underbody panel (28) of the motor vehicle (30), but rather in a region other than the separation region.

Drawings

The drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. More specifically, the Examiner has stated that the details of claim 41 must be shown or the feature(s) cancelled from the claim.

Claim 41 has been cancelled.

{WP415981;1}

- 7 -

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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 27-32, 36-37, and 40-41 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Lang et al. (DE 19528309).

Claim 27 has been amended to even more clearly define the present invention and to facilitate the prosecution. The support may be found in Figs. 2-4 and the corresponding description in the specification of the instant application.

Lang et al. do not disclose a cover. The reference numeral 13 refers to an opening formed at the bottom of the hollow section (10) and the reference numeral 14 refers to a plastic stopper similar to the stopper (21) of the present invention. None of them refers to a cover in the sense of the present invention.

Moreover, Lang et al. do not disclose a hollow profiled section (6) having a first end (7) proximate to the sill and a second end (10) remote from the sill, wherein wall section at the first end (7) are notched or cut out to form wall parts (9) spaced apart from one another by gaps (8) and a circular circumferential region (11) is formed at the second end (10).

Claim 27 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over Lang et al. and since all the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 27, they are believed to be patentable as well.

{WP415981;1}

- 8 -

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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 33-34 and 42 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lang et al. Claim 35 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lang et al. in view of Schneider (DE 19831548).

Since these claims are ultimately dependent on claim 27, which is believed to be patentable as discussed above, they are believed to be patentable as well.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 38-39 would be allowable if written to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Since claims 38-39 are ultimately dependent on claim 27, which is believed to be patentable as discussed above, they are believed to be patentable in dependent form. A rewrite is, therefore, not necessary at this time.

Specification

The Examiner has stated that the substitute specification filed November 28, 2005 has not been entered because no marked-up copy and statement regarding the lack of new matter is filed in this application.

A marked-up copy of the substitute specification and statement regarding the lack of new matter were properly filed on November 28, 2005. A copy of the document submitted by

(WP415981;1)

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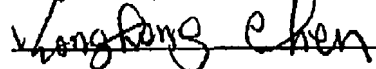
Applicants and received by the Patent Office is enclosed herewith. Entry of the substitute specification is, therefore, requested.

Finally, rejoinder of method claims 43-49 is requested upon allowance of the product claims 27-40 and 42 under MPEP 821.04.

Favorable consideration and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. Should further issues remain prior to allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number.

Date: August 22, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



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{WP415981;1}

- 10 -